

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 43-46 without prejudice.

Please amend/replace claims 38-42 as follows:

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (previously presented)      The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said cover provides a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 3. (previously presented)      The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said receiving area is larger in one or more battery plate growth directions than said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 4. (previously presented)      The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said receiving area is smaller one direction than said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 5. (previously presented)      The battery cell of claim 32, further comprising one or more apertures on said battery cell structure for receiving a battery electrolyte.

Claim 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (canceled)

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 21, wherein said plurality of separators are absorbed glass mat separators.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 21, wherein said interior height of said casing is smaller by about 20% than said uncompressed height of said compressible stack.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 21, wherein said cover includes a plurality of snap lock tabs mateable with a corresponding plurality of recesses in said casing for mating said cover and said casing.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 21, wherein said compressible stack has a width and a length that is smaller than an interior width and an interior length of said casing.

Claim 21. (previously presented) A battery cell, comprising:

- a plurality of positive plates each of said plurality of positive plates having a positive lug;

- a plurality of separators;

- a plurality of negative plates each of said negative plates having a negative lug, said plurality of positive plates, said plurality of separators, and said plurality of negative plates being configured into a compressible stack;

- a casing for receiving said compressible stack, said casing having an interior height smaller by about 5% to 50% than an uncompressed height of said compressible stack; and a cover mated with said casing compressing said compressible stack to about said interior height of said casing, wherein said casing further comprises:

- a first slot for receiving said plurality of positive lugs, said first slot being offset from a first side of said casing by a first predetermined distance and said positive lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said first predetermined distance; and

a second slot for receiving said plurality of negative lugs, said second slot being offset from a second side of said casing by a second predetermined distance and said negative lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said second predetermined distance, said first predetermined distance being different than said second predetermined distance.

Claim 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (canceled)

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (canceled)

Claim 27. (canceled)

Claim 28. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said height of said receiving area is smaller than an uncompressed height of said compressible stack of battery elements by about 20%.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said cover comprises a plurality of snap lock tabs mateable with a corresponding plurality of recesses in said battery cell structure.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said compressible stack of battery elements has a width and a length that is smaller than a width and a length of said receiving area.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said battery cell structure further comprises a plurality of reinforcing ribs for preventing growth of said width and said length of said compressible stack of battery elements larger than said width and said length of said receiving area.

Claim 32. (previously presented) A battery cell, comprising:

a battery cell structure, said battery cell structure defining a receiving area, a positive alignment opening, and a negative alignment opening;

a compressible stack of battery cell elements in said receiving area, said compressible stack of battery cell elements comprising a plurality of positive plates each having a positive tab portion depending outwardly from a periphery, a plurality of negative plates each having a negative tab portion depending outwardly from a periphery, and a nonconductive separator disposed in between said plurality of positive plates and said plurality of negative plates; and

a cover secured to said battery cell structure covering said receiving area, said positive alignment opening aligning said positive tab portion of each of said plurality of positive plates, and said negative alignment opening aligning said negative tab portion of each of said plurality of negative plates, wherein said positive lug alignment opening is offset from a first side of said battery cell structure by a first predetermined distance and said positive lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said first predetermined distance; and said negative lug alignment opening being offset from said first side of said body by a second predetermined distance and said negative lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said second predetermined distance, said first predetermined distance being different from said second predetermined distance.

Claim 33. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said positive lug alignment opening and said negative lug alignment opening each further comprise growth insulators for preventing said positive lugs from contacting said negative lugs during growth of the compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said battery cell structure further comprises a guide for placing and aligning the battery cell within a battery case such that said positive lugs are adjacent or proximate a positive battery electrode of said battery case, and such that said negative lugs are adjacent or proximate a negative battery electrode of said battery case.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 34, wherein said guide comprises a slot or notch.

Claim 36. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said compressible stack of battery cell elements are inserted into said receiving area in an uncompressed state and said cover applies a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements when said cover is secured to said battery cell structure.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The battery cell of claim 3, wherein said compressible stack of battery cell elements are inserted into said receiving area in an uncompressed state and said cover applies a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements when said cover is secured to said battery cell structure.

Claim 38. (currently amended) A battery having a plurality of battery cells, each battery cell for use in a battery configured to receive a plurality of said battery cells, comprising:

a plurality of positive plates each of said plurality of positive plates having a positive lug;

a plurality of separators;

a plurality of negative plates each of said negative plates having a negative lug, said plurality of positive plates, said plurality of separators, and said plurality of negative plates being configured into a compressible stack;

a casing for receiving said compressible stack, said casing having a pair of opposing side walls, a bottom portion disposed therebetween and a pair of opposing end walls, said end walls being disposed between said pair of side walls; and

a cover configured to engage said pair of side walls and said pair of end walls, one of said pair of end walls having a positive lug opening and a negative lug opening wherein said positive lugs and said negative lugs are positioned to be secured to a plurality of positive lugs and a plurality of negative lugs of another battery cell, said positive lug opening being offset a first distance from one of said pair of side walls and said negative lug opening being offset a second distance from the other one of said pair of side walls, said first distance not equal to said second distance.

Claim 39. (currently amended) The battery cell as in claim 38, wherein at least one of said side walls comprises a guide for guiding the placement of the battery cell within the battery.

Claim 40. (currently amended) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is configured to mate with a corresponding feature of the battery.

Claim 41. (currently amended) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is a notch in the housing.

Claim 42. (currently amended) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is a slot in the housing.

Claim 43. (canceled)

Claim 44. (canceled)

Claim 45. (canceled)

Claim 46. (canceled)